

Application No. 09/976,384
Amendment Dated May 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003
Attorney Docket No.: 49287.4.1

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

6. (Currently amended) A stabilized retaining wall structure comprising:

- a) a plurality of individual blocks stacked in an array of superimposed rows, with at least one hollow core being formed in selected blocks of said individual blocks, with said selected block comprising a rear surface and an access bore, with said access bore running from said rear surface to said hollow core such that said hollow core can be accessed from a rear of said selected block;
- b) an earthen fill zone in spaced apart relation to said rear surfaces of said selected blocks;
- c) a clean granular back-fill interposed between said earthen fill zone and said rear surfaces of said selected blocks;
- d) a stable anchoring assembly disposed in said earthen fill zone for being coupled to and in restraining contact with said selected blocks;
- e) a keeper engaged in the hollow core of said selected block; and
- f) an elongated connector running between said keeper and said stable anchoring assembly, with the elongated connector comprising a body segment and opposed proximal and distal ends, with said proximal end of said elongated connector being engaged with said keeper, with the elongated connector being in the access bore of said selected block and running from the access bore of said selected block, with said distal end comprising an anchoring assembly attachment means, with said anchoring assembly attachment means being secured to said stable anchoring assembly.

7. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure of claim 6:

- a) wherein said selected block comprises a front web portion, a rear web portion, and a pair of side web portions interconnecting the front and rear web portions;

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b) wherein said selected block further comprises an inner surface, wherein said inner surface comprises a rear inner surface portion defined by the rear web portion, side inner surface portions defined by the side web portions, and a front inner surface defined by the front web portion; and

c) wherein said keeper comprises a metal bracket structured to include a rear bracket portion confronting the rear inner surface portion of said rear web portion of said selected block and a pair of side bracket portions confronting the side inner surface portions of said side web portions of said side web portions of said selected block.

8. (Currently amended) The stabilized retaining wall structure of claim 6:

a) wherein said selected block includes another access bore;

b) wherein said stabilized retaining wall structure further comprises another elongated connector, with the proximal ends of each of the elongated connectors being engaged to said keeper, with each of the elongated connectors being in one respective access bore, and with each of the anchoring assembly attachment means of the distal ends of the elongated connectors being secured to a respective portion of said stable anchoring assembly.

9. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure of claim 6, wherein said distal end of the elongated connector comprises a hook.

10. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure of claim 8, wherein each of the distal ends of the elongated connectors comprises a hook.

11. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure of claim 6, wherein said hollow core is partially defined by tapered side web portions tapering inwardly from a front web portion of said selected block to a rear web portion of said selected block.

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12. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure according to claim 7, wherein said metal bracket further comprises a pair of end bracket portions, with each of the end bracket portions running inwardly from one respective side bracket portion.

13. (Currently amended) A stabilized retaining wall structure comprising:

a) a plurality of individual blocks stacked in an array of superimposed rows, with at least one hollow core being formed in selected blocks of said individual blocks, with said selected block including a rear surface;

b) with said selected block further comprising a front web portion, a rear web portion, and a pair of side web portions interconnecting the front and rear web portions;

c) with said rear web portion of said selected block comprising an access bore formed therein such that said hollow core can be accessed from the rear surface of said selected block;

d) with said selected block further comprising an inner surface, wherein said inner surface comprises a rear inner surface portion defined by the rear web portion, side inner surface portions defined by the side web portions, and a front inner surface portion defined by the front web portion;

e) an earthen fill zone in spaced apart relation to said rear surfaces of said selected blocks;

f) a clean granular back-fill interposed between said earthen fill zone and said rear surfaces of said selected blocks;

g) a stable anchoring assembly disposed in said earthen fill zone for being coupled to and in restraining contact with said selected blocks;

h) a keeper engaged in the hollow core of said selected block, wherein said keeper comprises a metal bracket structured to include a rear bracket portion confronting the rear inner surface portion of said rear web portion of said selected block and a pair of side bracket portions confronting the side inner surface portions of said side web portions of said selected block; and

i) a pair of elongated connectors running between said metal bracket and said stable anchoring assembly, with each of said elongated connectors comprising a body segment and

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opposed proximal and distal ends, with said proximal end of each of said elongated connectors being engaged with the rear bracket portion of said metal bracket, with each of said elongated connectors being in one respective access bore of said rear web portion of said selected block and running from said access bore, with said distal end comprising an anchoring assembly attachment means that comprises a hook, and with said anchoring assembly attachment means being secured to said stable anchoring assembly.

14. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure according to claim 13, wherein said metal bracket further comprises a pair of end bracket portions, with each of the end bracket portions running inwardly from one respective side bracket portion.

15. (Currently amended) A stabilized retaining wall structure comprising:

- a) a selected block comprising at least one hollow core and a rear surface;
- b) with said selected block further comprising a front web portion, a rear web portion, and a pair of side web portions interconnecting the front and rear web portions;
- c) with said rear web portion of said selected block comprising an access bore formed therein such that said hollow core can be accessed from the rear surface of said selected block;
- d) with said selected block further comprising an inner surface, wherein said inner surface comprises a rear inner surface portion defined by the rear web portion, side inner surface portions defined by the side web portions, and a front inner surface portion defined by the front web portion;
- e) a keeper engaged in the hollow core of said selected block, wherein said keeper comprises a metal bracket structured to include a rear bracket portion confronting the rear inner surface portion of said rear web portion of said selected block and a pair of side bracket portions confronting the side inner surface portions of said side web portions of said selected block; and
- f) a pair of elongated connectors running from said metal bracket, with each of said elongated connectors comprising a body segment and opposed proximal and distal ends, with said proximal end of each of said elongated connectors being engaged with the rear bracket

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portion of said metal bracket, with each of said elongated connectors being in one respective access bore of said rear web portion of said selected block and running from said access bore, and with said distal end comprising an anchoring assembly attachment means that comprises a hook.

16. (Previously presented) The stabilized retaining wall structure according to claim 15, wherein said metal bracket further comprises a pair of end bracket portions, with each of the end bracket portions running inwardly from one respective side bracket portion.

17. (Previously presented) A stabilized retaining wall structure connector apparatus comprising:

a) a keeper, wherein said keeper comprises a metal bracket structured to include a rear bracket portion, a pair of side bracket portions running inwardly from one respective side bracket portion; and

b) a pair of elongated connectors running from said metal bracket, with each of said elongated connectors comprising a body segment and opposed proximal and distal ends, with said proximal end of each of said elongated connectors being engaged with the rear bracket portion and running from said rear bracket portion, and with said distal end comprising a hook.